**October 13, 2024**

**Final Countdown: Understanding the Rapture**

**1. The Timeline of Events:**

* **First Coming of Christ:** Jesus came to earth, born of a Virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, and was crucified. He rose from the dead on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day. (Matthew 28:1-6)
* **Church Age:** We are currently living in the time between Jesus' first coming and His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ coming. (Acts 1:9-11)
* **The Rapture:** Jesus will come for His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to take them to heaven. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
* **The Tribulation:** A period of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years of great tribulation follows the Rapture. (Revelation 7:14)
* **Second Coming of Christ:** Jesus returns with His church to reign for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years. (Revelation 20:4)
* **Great White Throne Judgment:** Final judgment where unrepentant sinners are eternally separated from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Revelation 20:11-15)

**2. Key Concepts of the Rapture:**

* The word "Rapture" comes from the Greek word "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_," meaning to carry off by force. (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
* The Rapture will happen in the "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of an eye," a moment very quickly. (1 Corinthians 15:52)
* Jesus will not come all the way to earth but will remain in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to gather His people. (1 Thessalonians 4:17)

**3. The Hope of Believers:**

* Believers will be transformed and given new bodies, like the resurrected body of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Philippians 3:21)
* Jesus promised to prepare a place for us and will come again to take us to be with Him. "In My Father’s house are many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_." (John 14:2)

**4. Living in Readiness:**

* We must be ready because the Son of Man will come at an hour when we do not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 24:44)
* Our mission is to share the good news and make \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of all nations. (Matthew 28:19)

**5. Assurance and Invitation:**

* Jesus never turns anyone down. Have you surrendered your life to Him? Have you asked Him to be your Lord and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_? (Romans 10:9)

**Reflection Questions:**

1. How does understanding the timeline of events help you live with hope and urgency?
2. What steps can you take to be ready for the Rapture?
3. How can you share the good news of Jesus with others in your life?

This handout is designed to reinforce the key points of the sermon and encourage personal reflection and readiness for Christ's return.